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INFO IRAN COLLECTIVE

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TAGS: [PINR](#) [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [ETRD](#) [AF](#) [IR](#)
SUBJECT: (C) KUDOS FOR REPORTING ON AFGHANISTAN'S
ECONOMIC LINKS TO IRAN (C-ME9-02232)

REF: KABUL 003189

Classified By: ELISSA G. PITTERLE, DIRECTOR, INR/OPS

11. (C/NF) WASHINGTON ANALYSTS FOLLOWING IRANIAN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES APPRECIATE REFTTEL, AS IT GIVES VALUABLE ON-THE-GROUND INFORMATION THAT HELPS PROVIDE CONTEXT TO OTHER REPORTING ON MORE DETAILED ISSUES OF IRANIAN CONSTRUCTION, FINANCIAL, AND TRADE ACTIVITIES IN AFGHANISTAN. IT IS PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO SEE IRAN'S SHARE OF ACTIVITY IN AFGHANISTAN, AS POLICYMAKERS FREQUENTLY ASK FOR THIS METRIC. IT HELPS US TO ASSESS AFGHANISTAN'S DEPENDENCY ON IRAN. IRAN ANALYSTS HAVE SUSPECTED THAT IRAN-AFGHANISTAN TRADE WAS UNDERESTIMATED, AND THIS REPORT HELPS PROVIDE A BASELINE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO ANY ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS POST CAN PROVIDE ON THESE ISSUES, TIME AND RESOURCES PERMITTING. THANK YOU AND BEST REGARDS FROM WASHINGTON.

12. (U) PLEASE CITE C-ME9-02232 IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF REPORTING IN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS.
CLINTON